



CORONAVIRUS NEWS POLITICS

4,245 new COVID-19 cases reported in Illinois as positivity rate continues climbing

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By Emmanuel Camarillo | @mannycam | Oct 18, 2020, 4:41pm CDT



A staff member of Community Organized Relief Effort's (CORE) grabs a sample at a drive-thru COVID-19 testing facility at Maria Saucedo Scholastic Academy in Little Village in September. | Pat Nabong/Sun-Times file photo

CORONAVIRUS NEWSLETTER

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Illinois health officials Sunday reported 4,245 new cases of COVID-19 as the state's positivity rate continued its climb for the 14th consecutive day.

That is only 309 cases fewer than the **record-breaking** tally of 4,554 cases announced Friday by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The state has now reported a daily caseload of more than 4,000 in three of the last four days. The latest cases were confirmed among 79,296 tests, raising the positivity rate, which indicates how rapidly the virus is spreading, to 5.3% from 5.2% the previous day.

Public health officials Sunday also attributed 22 more deaths to the coronavirus, for a total of 9,214 since the pandemic began.

Coronavirus cases per day in Illinois

New cases of coronavirus per day and the rolling 7-day average of new cases

Note: On Sept. 4, IDPH released what it described as a backlog of testing data, resulting in an unusually high number of positive cases that day. The Sun-Times is not including this date in our rolling average.

7-day rolling average of new cases New cases

Source: [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) • Graph by Caroline Hurley

CS*T

Health experts **have warned** Illinois is approaching a new peak that could be severe if people don't adhere to recommended guidelines.

On Sunday, Gov. J.B. Pritzker accused "Trump allies in our state" of contributing to the spike in Illinois COVID-19 infections by encouraging people to flout the rules **in an interview** on CNN's "State of the Union."

Since March, over 6.7 million coronavirus tests have been administered statewide, with at least 344,048 people testing positive for the virus.

The recovery rate in Illinois is 97%, and most people who contract COVID-19 show mild symptoms.

As of Saturday night, 2,012 were hospitalized with COVID-19, with 408 of them in the ICU and 157 on ventilators.